(203)

[redacted]

JAN 27 1953

Dr. Julius A. Stratton, Provost
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 37, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Stratton:

Remembering your request to be kept informed of any progress in the problem of "unidentified flying objects," this letter will bring you up to date.

Last November, the section of the Air Technical Intelligence Center charged with investigation of reports of sightings presented a status briefing at the Agency. Based upon the evidence presented, the subject was discussed at a December meeting of the Intelligence Advisory Committee (CIA, Army, Navy, Air Force, Joint Staff, State, AEC, and FBI). At that time it was recommended that CIA should assemble a panel of highly qualified personnel to examine the problem and its ramifications. Particular competency in the fields of physics, radar and astronomy was believed desirable.

We were fortunate to obtain the services of especially qualified men, I believe you will agree. Enclosed for your information are copies of the report submitted by the Panel and related material. We concur in the conclusions and recommendations of the Panel, and are forwarding the report to appropriate authorities. Since the problems related to this subject appear to be operational rather than intelligence in nature, we will be concerned only indirectly in the future. However, if there are any developments in which we believe you might be interested, we shall inform you. Incidentally, knowledge of any interest of CIA in the subject of "flying saucers" has been carefully restricted, in view of probable misunderstanding if it were publicly known.

With best wishes,

Cordially yours,

Signed: H Marshall Chadwell
H. Marshall Chadwell
Assistant Director

Enclosures:
1. Panel Report
2. List of Personnel
3. Evidence presented

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Distribution:
Boston Office [redacted] with Enclosures - 1
OO/C, [redacted] no enclosures - 1
OSI:PSD/Giv-(27Jan53) [redacted]

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Acting Chief, P&E Division, SI — 27 January 1953

THROUGH: Chief, OP Branch, P&E Division, SI — B-3

Lt. Col. F. C. E. Oder, OP Branch

Meetings of OSI Advisory Group on Unidentified Flying Objects, 14-17 January 1953

1. At your request I represented P&E Division at the subject meetings. I was present at nearly all meetings of the group with the exception of the afternoon of Friday, the 16th and the session on Saturday, the 17th. During the latter two sessions the Advisory Group went into executive session for the preparation of their report to AD/SI.

2. The following OSI Consultants formed the Advisory Group:

- Dr. H. P. Robertson, Chairman
- Dr. Sam Goudsmit
- Dr. Louis Alvarez
- Dr. Thornton Page (missed morning session on 15th)
- Dr. Lloyd Berkner (present only on afternoon of 16th and 17th)
- Dr. J. A. Hynek (an ATIC consultant - he sat in all the sessions after the first day, but did not sign the report to AD/SI as an official group member)

3. The following OSI staff members attended:

- Dr. H. M. Chadwell (most of the first day only)
- Mr. R. C. Strong (first day only)
- Mr. F. C. Durant (although now an OSI consultant, he functioned as a staff member for the conference and attended all sessions including the executive session)
- Mr. D. B. Stevenson, Weapons Division
- Lt. Col. F. C. E. Oder, P&E Division

Release

4. The following persons were invited to present certain background information to the Advisory Group:

Captain Edward Ruppelt, ATIC who presented information on the work of Proj. Bluebook (and its predecessors "Grudge", "Saucer", and "Sign") and discussed in detail many of their specific investigations.

Major Fournet, AF/OIN (by now on inactive status and with the Royal Corp.) who presented findings independent of ATIC, representatives of the Navy photographic labs who presented their analysis of films of a "sighting."

Acting Chief, P&E Division, SI B-3 27 January 1953

THROUGH: Chief, Ops Branch, P&E Division, SI
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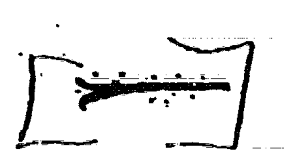
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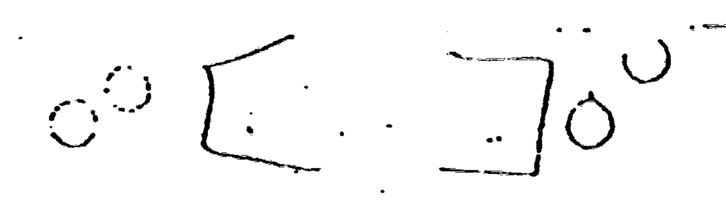
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5. The first business on the agenda was a welcome by and a charge (Atch. #1) to the Group by Mr. Chadwell. This was followed by a statement of the CIA interest by Mr. Strong. CIA had been requested by NSC to look into the "flying saucer" problem because of these related national security problems: (a) possible exploitation to produce mass hysteria, (b) the confusions and dangers inherent in observations of "flying saucers" by the U.S. radar and observer system, (c) the danger of "flying saucer reports" overloading the emergency communication facilities of the Department of Defense.

6. Because of the quality of the consultants and the excellence of their introduction to the subject by Mr. Chadwell and Mr. Strong, the Advisory Group never lost sight of its goals inspite of the fact that the discussion took many excursions.

7. The Advisory Group submitted its report to AD/SI on 17 January 1953. Their principal finding was that at the present time the unidentified flying objects pose no threat to the security of the United States. They recommended the establishment of program of education regarding the sightings particularly as concerns the U.S. radar and observer system, and for the general public as well.

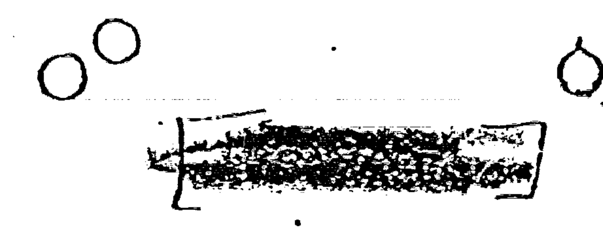
8. Most of the OSI files on this subject are being retained in the office of the AD/SI. Weapons Division has a considerable file which according to Stevenson, they would like to dispose of because of the findings of the Advisory Group that "flying saucers" pose no present threat to the United States security. Mr. Durant feels that the material in the Weapons Division file should be maintained in one of the substantive Divisions of OSI and has suggested that P&E Division take them over and maintain them. Mr. Stevenson of Weapons Division currently has the material and estimates that several hours per week will be required to keep it current. He indicates that he is suggesting to Mr. Young, chief of Weapons Division, that P&E Division get the files. I would like to suggest that the Acting Chief, P&E Division discuss this with Mr. Young. I personally don't see why P&E Division has any greater interest in this material than Weapons Division.

9. If OP Branch, P&E Division is given the responsibility for the files mentioned in paragraph 8, above, one (1) additional safe will be required.

FREDERIC C. E. ODER
Lt. Colonel, USAF

FCEO:es

cc: Orig. & 1 - Div. Off.
1 - [illegible]
1 - OPF
1 - Originator



CHARGE TO O/SI ADVISORY GROUP ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

1. To review available evidence on unidentified flying objects and to consider possible dangers to national security related thereto.

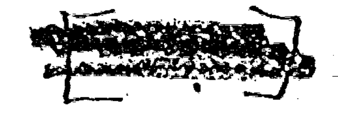
2. To advise concerning the amount and kind of data necessary for a scientific evaluation of these phenomena.

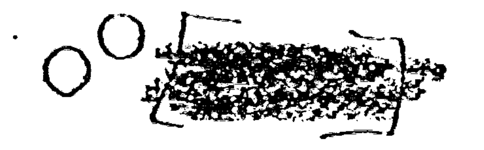
3. In particular to comment on:

a. Validity of current CIA evaluation of related dangers.

b. Methodology and scope of current and planned ATIC investigation.

c. Advisability of further meetings of this group or further review of the subject by a larger panel.




[redacted]

POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS

A. Hysteria, hallucinations, hoaxes, etc. (Psychological)

B. Misidentifications of conventional objects:

1. Aircraft, missiles, searchlight reflections, etc. (man-made, controlled)

2. Balloons, kites, etc. (man-made, uncontrolled)

3. Birds, bugs, etc. (animal)

4. Dust, seeds (e.g. dandelion), paper, etc. (foreign matter)

C. Natural Phenomena:

1. Light aberrations, reflections, refractions, etc.

2. Anomalous radar propagation.

3. Ionization, static electricity, ball lighting, etc.

4. Planets, meteors and other astronomical bodies.

5. Others.

D. Unconventional man-made devices:

1. US

2. USSR and other foreign

E. Extraterrestrial origin

1. Animal

2. Machine

Basis of Maj. Fournet's presentation to OSI Advisory Gp 14-17 Jan (given on 16 Jan)

[redacted]

[redacted]

FORMATIONS

(1) (3 in rear darted around in circular or zig-zag manner)	(2) (All objects had a swaying motion from side to side)	(3)	(4)
(5)	(6)	(7) (Presumed)	(8) (Presumed)
(9) 2 in general trail formation (trailing object varied position)	(10) 4 objects (exact formation not specified)	(11) ("perfect formation")	(12) (Pres
(13) Cluster in (Presumed)		(14)	(15
(16) 3 objects, one above other 5° apart	(17)		